



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

**To:** Regional Board

**From:** Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

**Date:** June 27, 2022

**Subject:** Parks Services Budget Amendment – Habitat Stewardship Program Grant Funds

**Voting Entitlement:** *All Directors – Stakeholder Weighted Vote – Majority (LGA s.209)*

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**Purpose:** To consider amending the 2022 – 2026 RDCO 5 Year Financial Plan for Regional Parks (142) to account for a \$200k grant from the Habitat Stewardship Program related to the expansion of Goats Peak Regional Park.

### Executive Summary:

In 2021, the Regional Board approved the acquisition of new Regional Park lands for Goats Peak Regional Park, the new lands are located at the end of Whitworth Road. In parallel to this process Parks Staff applied to the Federal Government Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) to assist with the acquisition costs of these lands. Subsequently, HSP approved a \$200k grant towards the acquisition of these lands through this program. The RDCO completed the purchase of the new lands in early 2022, the \$200k in HSP funding was not approved till late 2021, with funding to be provided to the RDCO in 2022. This report seeks Regional Board approval to amend the 2022 – 2026 RDCO 5 Year Financial Plan for Regional Parks to include these funds as revenue and expense in its operational budget placing these funds back into capital facility reserves.

### Recommendation(s):

**THAT** the Regional Board approves amending the 2022 year of the RDCO 2022 – 2026 5 Year Financial Plan No. 1502 for Function 142 – Regional Parks as follows:

- Increase 01-1-7100-500-142 Federal Grant Operating revenue line by \$200,000 from \$0 to \$200,000, and
- Increase 01-2-8210-507-142 Transfer to Capital Facility Reserves Operating Expense line by \$200,000 from \$3,850,000 to \$4,050,000.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Carlington".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Kopp".

Wayne Darlington, Manager – Park Planning

Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

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### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities

Values: Good Governance, Transparency

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### **Background:**

In 2021, the Regional Board approved the \$2.1 million acquisition of new Regional Park lands at the end of Whitworth Road in the City of West Kelowna as an expansion of Goats Peak Regional Park. This new acquisition was completed in early 2022 and provides park user access into Goats Peak Regional Park from the end of Whitworth Road located on the east side of the park.

At the same time this process was in progress, Parks Staff also made application to the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) to seek additional funding to assist with acquisition costs of the new land. The criteria around this type of application relates to the protection and conservation of intact ecosystem and wildlife habitat. This type of grant fits well with the Regional Parks mandate towards balancing responsible passive recreation and conservation of natural lands for wildlife and biodiversity. As a result of the application to HSP, the RDCO was notified later in 2021 by HSP that the application was successful in receiving \$200k grant funding for the acquisition of the new land at Goats Peak Regional Park.

Recently, the RDCO received the first instalment of \$140k towards payment of the HSP grant funding, with the remaining \$60k expected towards the end of 2022. However, it was noticed in the 2022 Regional Park Budget that the \$200k from HSP was missing in the Operational Federal Grant Revenue budget line item and subsequent Operational Transfer to Capital Facility Reserves Expenditure budget line items for 2022.

RDCO Parks staff are requesting that the Regional Board approve amending the 2022 Operational Budget for 142 – Regional Parks to account for \$200k in revenue within the Federal Grant budget line item, an increase from \$0 to \$200,000, and \$200k in expenditures within the Transfer to Capital Facility Reserves budget line item from \$3,850,000 to \$4,050,000. This accounts for the funds that have been and will be received from HSP in 2022 and locates them within Capital Facility Reserves and source of funding for the new land acquisition.

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### **Considerations:**

#### **Financial:**

The inclusion of the \$200k grant funding is required to be accounted for within the 2022 budget year and to be consistent with Public Sector Accounting Standards.

#### **Legal/Statutory Authority:**

The Regional Board approved the 2022-2026 RDCO 5 Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1502 on the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2022.

#### **Considerations not applicable:**

- Organizational/External
- Alternate Recommendation

